

What is claimed is:

1. A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal centerline (70) and a lateral centerline (72), the article comprising:
  - 5 a liquid impermeable outer cover (48);
  - a liner composite (30), the liner composite (30) including: (a) an extensible, fluid permeable liner material (32) having an upper surface (36) and an opposing lower surface (38); and (b) a non-tensioned elastic (34), the non-tensioned elastic (34) being associated with at least a portion of a surface (36, 38) of the liner material (32), wherein upon activation at least a portion of the liner composite (30) adjacent where the liner material (32) and the non-tensioned elastic (34) are associated is adapted to (i) have a retraction capability differential of at least 10 % and (ii) attain a three-dimensional configuration, and wherein at least that portion of the liner material (32) adjacent where the liner material (32) and the non-tensioned elastic (34) are associated is adapted to extend no less than 25 %; and
  - 15 an absorbent core (50) disposed intermediate the outer cover (48) and the liner composite (30).
- 20 2. The disposable absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the three-dimensional configuration is a barrier element (74).
3. The disposable absorbent article of claim 2, wherein the non-tensioned elastic (34) is associated with the lower surface (38) of the liner material (32).
- 25 4. The disposable absorbent article of claim 2, wherein the liner composite (30) is associated with and superposed on the outer cover (48) to thereby form a periphery (52), the periphery (52) generally including longitudinal side edges (54) and lateral end edges (56).
- 30 5. The disposable absorbent article of claim 4, wherein the barrier element (74) runs in a longitudinally-oriented direction and is disposed inboard from a longitudinal side edge (54) toward the longitudinal centerline (70).
- 35 6. The disposable absorbent article of claim 5, further comprising a leg elastic (60) wherein the barrier element (74) is disposed between the leg elastic (60) and the longitudinal centerline (70).

7. The disposable absorbent article of claim 5, wherein at least a portion of the barrier element (74) is liquid impermeable.

5 8. The disposable absorbent article of claim 4, wherein the barrier element (74) runs in a laterally-oriented direction and is disposed inboard from a lateral end edge (56) toward the lateral centerline (72).

10 9. The disposable absorbent article of claim 8, further comprising a waist elastic (62) wherein the barrier element (74) is disposed between the waist elastic (62) and the lateral centerline (72).

10. The disposable absorbent article of claim 8, wherein at least a portion of the barrier element (74) is liquid impermeable.

15 11. The disposable absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the three-dimensional configuration is a fit element (90).

20 12. The disposable absorbent article of claim 11, wherein the non-tensioned elastic (34) is associated with the lower surface (38) of the liner material (32).

13. The disposable absorbent article of claim 11, wherein the liner composite (30) is associated with and superposed on the outer cover (48) to thereby form a periphery (52), the periphery (52) generally including longitudinal side edges (54) and lateral end edges (56).

25 14. The disposable absorbent article of claim 13, wherein the fit element (90) is disposed inboard from a longitudinal side edge (54) toward the longitudinal centerline (70).

30 15. The disposable absorbent article of claim 14, wherein the fit element (90) runs in a substantially longitudinally-oriented direction.

16. The disposable absorbent article of claim 11, wherein a portion of the fit element (90) resides on the longitudinal centerline (70).

35 17. The disposable absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the fit element (90) runs in a substantially longitudinally-oriented direction.

18. A liner composite (30) suitable for incorporation into a disposable absorbent article, the liner composite (30) comprising: (a) an extensible, fluid permeable liner material (32) having an upper surface (36) and an opposing lower surface (38); and (b) a non-tensioned elastic (34), the non-tensioned elastic (34) being joined to a portion of a surface (36,  
5 38) of the liner material (32), and wherein upon activation at least that portion of the liner composite (30) adjacent where the liner material (32) and the non-tensioned elastic (34) are associated is adapted to: (i) have a retraction capability differential of at least 10 % and (ii) attain a three-dimensional configuration.

10 19. The liner composite (30) of claim 18, wherein the three-dimensional configuration has a distal edge (80) and a base region (78), the distal edge (80) and the base region (78) being in spaced relation to each other.

20. The liner composite (30) of the claim 19, further comprising a longitudinal  
15 centerline (70) and a lateral centerline (72).

21. The liner composite (30) of claim 20, wherein the three dimensional configuration is a barrier element (74).

20 22. The liner composite (30) of claim 21, wherein the non-tensioned elastic (34) is associated with the lower surface (38) of the liner material (32).

23. The liner composite (30) of claim 21, wherein the barrier element (74) runs in a longitudinally-oriented direction and is disposed outboard from the longitudinal centerline  
25 (70).

24. The liner composite (30) of claim 23, wherein at least a portion of the barrier element (74) is liquid impermeable.

30 25. The liner composite (30) of claim 21, wherein the barrier element (74) runs in a laterally-oriented direction and is disposed outboard from the lateral centerline (72).

26. The liner composite (30) of claim 25, wherein at least a portion of the barrier element (74) is liquid impermeable.  
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27. The liner composite (30) of claim 20, wherein the three dimensional configuration is a fit element (90).

28. The liner composite (30) of claim 27, wherein the non-tensioned elastic (34) is associated with the lower surface (38) of the liner material (32).

5 29. The liner composite (30) of claim 27, wherein the fit element (90) is disposed outboard from the longitudinal centerline (70).

30. The liner composite (30) of claim 27, wherein a portion of the fit element (90) resides on the longitudinal centerline (70).

10 31. The liner composite (30) of claim 28, wherein the fit element (90) runs in a substantially longitudinally-oriented direction.

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